

City of Greenbelt
Arts Advisory Board

Minutes for May 3, 2021 (7pm on Zoom)

In attendance: Members Tatiana Ausema, John Drago, Oliver Gaycken, Shaymar Higgs (arr. 7:50pm), Tom LeaMond, Effie Levner; staff liaison Nicole DeWald

Absent: Chair Kristin Stenson (with notice)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05pm.

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

Approval of the April 5 minutes was postponed to the June meeting, pending availability.

Tom LeaMond reported on the process followed by the Recognition Group Grant Review Panel on which he served, and recommended future panel service to fellow members. N. DeWald noted that the panel's report would be made public as part of the meeting packet for the Council worksession with the applicants scheduled for May 12. Staff answered Board questions regarding the confidentiality of the review process. The panel meeting was open to the public by request (none received). Board members are identified in the report as having served on the panel, but specific scores and comments are not ascribed to them. Individual, anonymized score sheets are available to the applicant organizations on request.

Effie Levner reported on Earth Day/Art in the Park events which were held at the Three Sisters Gardens on April 18. Community members were invited to draw or write in chalk on panels prepared by The Space. Each panel had a prompt: either "I hope for...", "Greenbelt is...", or "I dream...". Participants also received seeds in a cup of dirt to nurture at home. Additional participating organizations included the Chesapeake Education Arts and Research Society, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness and Connecting Across Greenbelt. This event was covered in an article in the Greenbelt News Review on 4/29.

Members proposed holding the AAB meeting on Tuesday, July 6, at 7pm at Schrom Hills Park, near the garden. N.DeWald will look into securing a permit for that date.

Nicole DeWald provided an update on the pending conservation of the Lenore Thomas sculptures. Window renovations at the Community Center (above the bas reliefs) are complete. A contractor has been selected, and the conservator's technical plan is under review by the state. Once approval is received, the cleaning should be performed in May. The scope includes the Mother and Child, bas reliefs,

and marble garden sculpture, along with lighting and a new interpretive panel for the Mother and Child. Nicole noted that Public Works staffer Brian Abbott has made some beautiful enclosures to protect the lighting fixtures, which will be installed at ground level.

E. Levner inquired about the non-functioning architectural lighting on the Roosevelt Center buildings. N. DeWald replied that the Planning Department had cited the owner for this violation, but that he has thus far remained unresponsive.

The Board revisited a concept from the April meeting regarding a community-wide art walk, with a possible gnome or tree theme. \$1,000 is available to AAB as needed for programming through June 30, and an additional \$1,000 will be available for FY22, beginning 7/1. It was determined that members present were not available/interested in coordinating such an activity. T. LeaMond proposed restarting the community mixer series, deferring to K. Stenson for leadership of the series as in the past if she is willing.

O. Gaycken proposed that the city commission a public art piece responding to the current social justice movement and taking inspiration from Lenore Thomas' original design for the "Establish Justice" bas relief on the Community Center, which had depicted a jury looking away from a lynching.

E. Levner and O. Gaycken expressed a general interest in murals.

N. DeWald noted that public art projects are being explored for Greenbelt Station, Beltway Plaza, and the NRP residential development, in coordination with Planning and the project developers. Nicole also reviewed how the city's public art agency fund works, with small contributions made annually at Council's discretion, and with maintenance of existing holdings being a top priority. [S. Higgs joined the meeting during this discussion].

T. LeaMond shared examples of public art in Greenhills and Cincinnati, Ohio.

E. Levner proposed an exhibit of works by local modelers. N. DeWald recommended the library entry display case as a possible location, and Effie agreed to pursue the idea.

S. Higgs commented on the Art in the Parks activities and on the spray paint art workshop at the Recreation Department's May Artful Afternoon. He connected from The Space at Beltway Plaza, which is being reorganized in anticipation of expanding engagement. Shaymar also mentioned food and nutrition programs sponsored by The Space.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:03 pm.